11
FLOWER KNIGHT DAKINI
CH. 11 - FLOWERS AND KNIGHTS

FLOWER KNIGHT DAKINI
CH. 11 - FLOWERS AND KNIGHTS

MY SENSE OF SMELL NEVER FAILS. DAKINI'S SAFE.
SNIFF SNIFF
IF SHE WERE CONSCIOUS, SHE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO GET BACK UPRIVER… DID SOMEONE RESCUE HER?
NO, THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO COME DOWN HERE.
A KNIGHT-CERTIFIED?
THEN…
…WHO DID…?

…?
OH!
YOU WOKE UP. THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
!?
…I'VE NEVER SEEN A SPECIAL TRAIT LIKE YOURS.
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED. I'M USED TO SEEING RARE ONES, BUT…

THE MOMENT YOU TOUCHED THE BED, YOU TURNED COMPLETELY WHITE.

...
HIGHER
...
...AND
SHAKIER
THAN
YOU
THINK.
THOOM

NO NEED TO BE AFRAID.
IT'S A SWORD-MOUNTAIN-BEARER. THEY'RE OUR TRIBE'S LANDLORDS.
THOOOM
THOOOM
THEY GET SO HUGE THAT THEY HAVE NO NATURAL ENEMIES, SO WE CAN LIVE SAFE EVEN WITHOUT AIUSHI.

I'M SORRY IF I FRIGHTENED YOU. I'M ALSH, FROM THE BUGMASTER TRIBE.
I'M A DESCENDANT OF THE ANCIENT BUGMASTER KNIGHTS.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM…?
SORRY FOR THE THIRD DEGREE, BUT THIS FOREST ISN'T A PLACE WHERE ORDINARY PEOPLE WOULD GO.
I FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS IN THE RIVER, LAST NIGHT.
DA…!
FIRST, COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

DA…!
~~~!

…?

DAKINI!

WOW! THAT'S YOUR NAME?
~~~

I'M DAMINI!

THIS IS OUR SON, ALJUN!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU! ♪
…!!

YUM!
SHOVE
WH… WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? SHE JUST FROZE…

HMM… I COULDN'T HELP GETTING EXCITED! EVEN OUR NAMES SOUND ALIKE.
STOP IT, JUN.
WELL, YOU DID PEPPER HER WITH ALL THOSE QUESTIONS.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
TRAVELING WITH SOMEONE?
GOT ANY SISTERS?
FAVE FOOD?
ARE YOU HURT?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

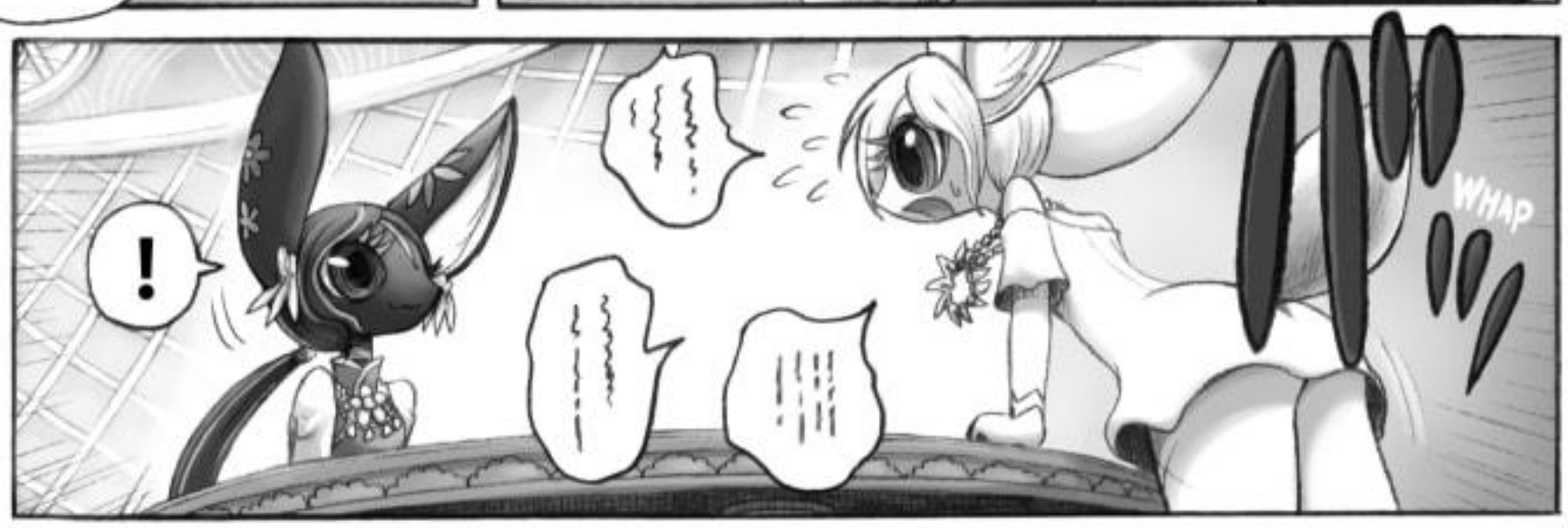
YOU'RE ASKING WHY I CAN HEAR YOUR VOICE?
!

I CAN HEAR THE FAINT SOUNDS INSIDE YOUR THROAT, DAKINI.

…!!

IT'S MY **SPECIAL TRAIT,** APPAR-ENTLY. ♪

I CAN TURN UP THE VOLUME OF THE SOUNDS I CHOOSE INSIDE MY MIND.



DAKINI HAS A COMPANION, RIGHT? I'LL LOOK FOR HIM BY THE RIVER.

HE MIGHT ALREADY BE ON THE TRAIL OF OUR MOUNTAIN-BEARER, SO PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT HERE, DAMINI.

!

OH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ALSH?

NO SLEEPY!

NOPE. YOU JUST WENT FOR A WALK WITH MOMMY. YOU'LL GET SLEEPY.

I GO TOO!!

I GO...

FLUFF

HERE'S DADDY'S SUN-SCENTED TAIL.

POOF

ZZZ

BE CARE-FUL, DEAR! ♪
SEE YOU LATER, THEN.

バタン
SHUT
…

ポル
POP
WELL NOW, SWEET DAKINI… ♪

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MY OLD CLOTHES!

YOU CAN'T MEET YOUR FRIEND IN THOSE PAJAMAS.
COME WITH ME!
Zz

WELCOME TO MY ROOM!

!

I HAVE A THING FOR FLOWERS. EVERY TIME I GO TO TOWN I BUY SOME.

TEE HEE! ♪

MAYBE SOMETHING WITH A FLOWER MOTIF, THEN!
I SEE, YOU LIKE FLOWERS TOO!
WOW! YOU KNOW SO MANY FLOWER NAMES, DAKINI!!
THAT'S UNDER-WEAR!
NOT PROPER CLOTHES
OR THIS ?!
HOW ABOUT THIS?
MAYBE THIS WILL DO…
HMM…!
AH! RIGHT.

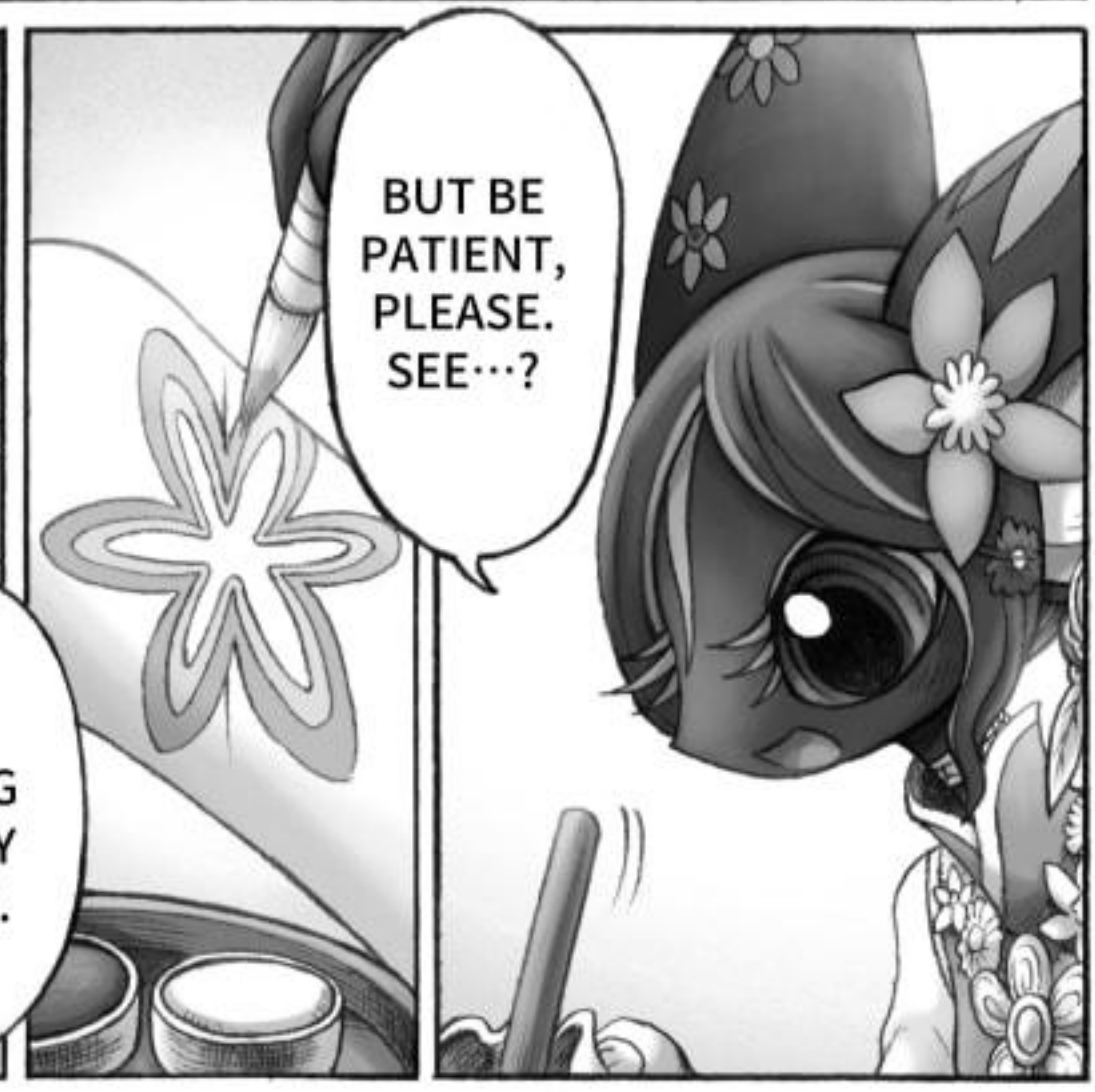
I GUESS YOU LIKE IT!!
IT'S THE TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL ATTIRE OF THE BUGMASTER TRIBE.
ALL OF US BUGMASTERS, WHO LIVE ON THEIR BACKS, GATHER THERE TOO.
MOUNTAIN-BEARERS DON'T USUALLY FORM LARGE GROUPS, BUT THEY HAVE A HABIT OF GATHERING IN ONE PLACE TWICE A YEAR.

COME HERE, I'LL DO YOUR MAKE-UP.

WE SING AND DANCE TO CELEBRATE MEETING WITH OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AGAIN.

SQUIRM SQUIRM
HA HA HA! SORRY. IT TICKLES, RIGHT?

I'M DRAWING A PRETTY FLOWER.


BUT BE PATIENT, PLEASE. SEE…?

OH! EIDEN IS A PAINTER?

WHAT A WONDERFUL NECKLACE!

WOW, HE'S ALSO GOOD WITH HIS HANDS!

REAL-LY?!
HA HA HA! I TOTALLY UNDER-STAND.

YEAH?

HEY, DAKINI!
WHUP

AAAH! TALKING TO YOU HAS MADE ME ALL HAPPY AND WARM INSIDE…!
?

LET'S SING AND DANCE!

I'LL TEACH YOU THE FESTIVAL DANCE!!

ズドン
THOOOM
ズドン
THOOOM
...

スッ…
THOOOM
…
スッ…
THOOOM
THAT WOMAN…
SHE'S WHITE, BUT…
…THERE'S NO DOUBT, IT'S DAKINI…
…IS HER…?

SLASH
?!

GRIKK!

WHAT?!

WHAT HAP-PENED?!

THAT GIANT BEETLE CAME RUNNING HERE...

SLIP

EVEN THOUGH I WAS BURNING AIUSHI INCENSE.

WHAT WAS IT RUNNING FROM...?

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

SWOOSH

...IS STILL ALIVE ?!

THAT GUY...

DON'T TELL ME...

...

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF

WHY IS HE HERE ...?

HE FOLLOWED HER, THE SAME WAY I DID.

IT'S BECAUSE OF DAKINI.

HIS COMMAND WAS STILL ALIVE.

*WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU COULD DEFEAT KARURA.*

EVEN "MIRROR MAN" DIDN'T REALIZE.

GRIIN

HE MEANS TO FIND DAKINI AND KILL HER.

DRAGGING MANY LIVES...

...INTO ANOTHER TRAGEDY ...

FSSSH
?
GRAB

FOR THE PAST WEEK, I'VE BEEN DESPERATELY TRYING TO CHEER UP DAKINI.
COOKING DELICIOUS FOOD, DRAWING PICTURES ...
BUT YESTER-DAY I MADE HER CRY.
"I WANT YOU TO WALK DOWN A PATH FULL OF BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS."
ALL I DID WAS WISH FOR HER HAPPINESS.

SHE LOOKED AS IF SHE'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
LIKE SHE WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD, WONDERING IF SHE, TOO, COULD WISH FOR SUCH HAPPINESS.
DWHAMM

SPLURRRT

---!

I WON'T LET YOU REACH DAKINI.

I DON'T MIND IF I WON'T BE PART OF HER HAPPINESS.
TO LET THAT PICTURE ...
...CONTINUE, EVEN A LITTLE LONGER...

…I'LL STOP YOU.
I'LL …

...
PROTECT DAKINI.
CRK

YOU KNOW, DAKINI ...

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE PAST.

BUT WE GOT TOGETHER IN THE END.
ALSH AND I WERE IN DIFFERENT FAMILIES AT FIRST.
THE BUG-MASTER TRIBE IS MADE UP MOSTLY OF RARE FOXES AND RACCOON DOGS, SO I BLENDED IN REALLY FAST.
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN THAT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO REMEMBER MY PAST.
BUT, WHEN ALJUN WAS BORN…
…I REALIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT PARENTS AND CHILDREN REALLY LOOK ALIKE.

I WONDERED IF THEY WERE HAPPY.
I STARTED WONDERING IF I LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE ELSE, TOO.

BUT, YOU KNOW, WHEN I MET YOU, IT FELT LIKE I HAD MET MY FAMILY.
IT WAS AS IF A PART OF ME THAT WAS MISSING HAD BEEN FILLED...

DAKINI! WHY DON'T YOU REALLY JOIN MY FAMILY?
?!
ALSH AND I ARE PLANNING FOR A BIG FAMILY!
YOU AND EIDEN ARE MOST WELCOME TO JOIN!

SHIVER
WHAT… IS THIS PRES-ENCE…?

NO… VOICES …?
SOUNDS …?
WEAK AND SMALL …
… BUT COUNT-LESS …
… GRATING VOICES …?
A MASS OF…

I GO FIND DADDY!

CLIMB

CLIMB

OH MY GOD! ALJUN?!!

WAIT! WAIT! WAIT !!!

MOMMY WILL CRY IF YOU LEAVE ME ALONE.

IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU COULD GET UP THERE BY YOUR-SELF… BUT…!!

OH, JUN! YOU'RE SO SWEET!

YOU DID IT FOR MOMMY! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

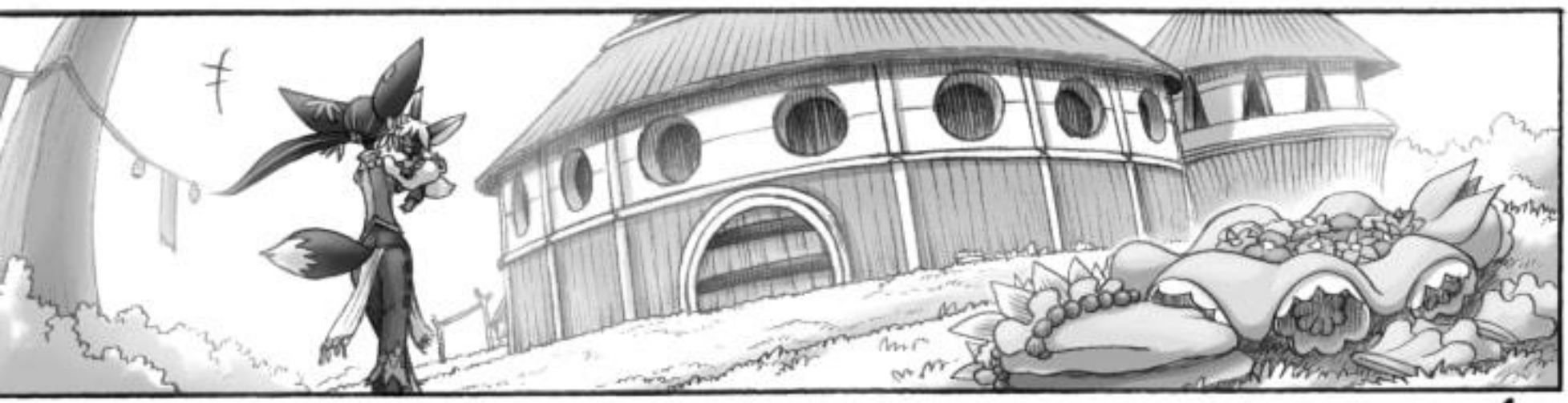
I GO DOWN!!

YOU CRY?! I NO GO!!

…

I'M HERE, NO CRY!

YES, THANK YOU, DEAR!



—!!
FSSSSH

SSH

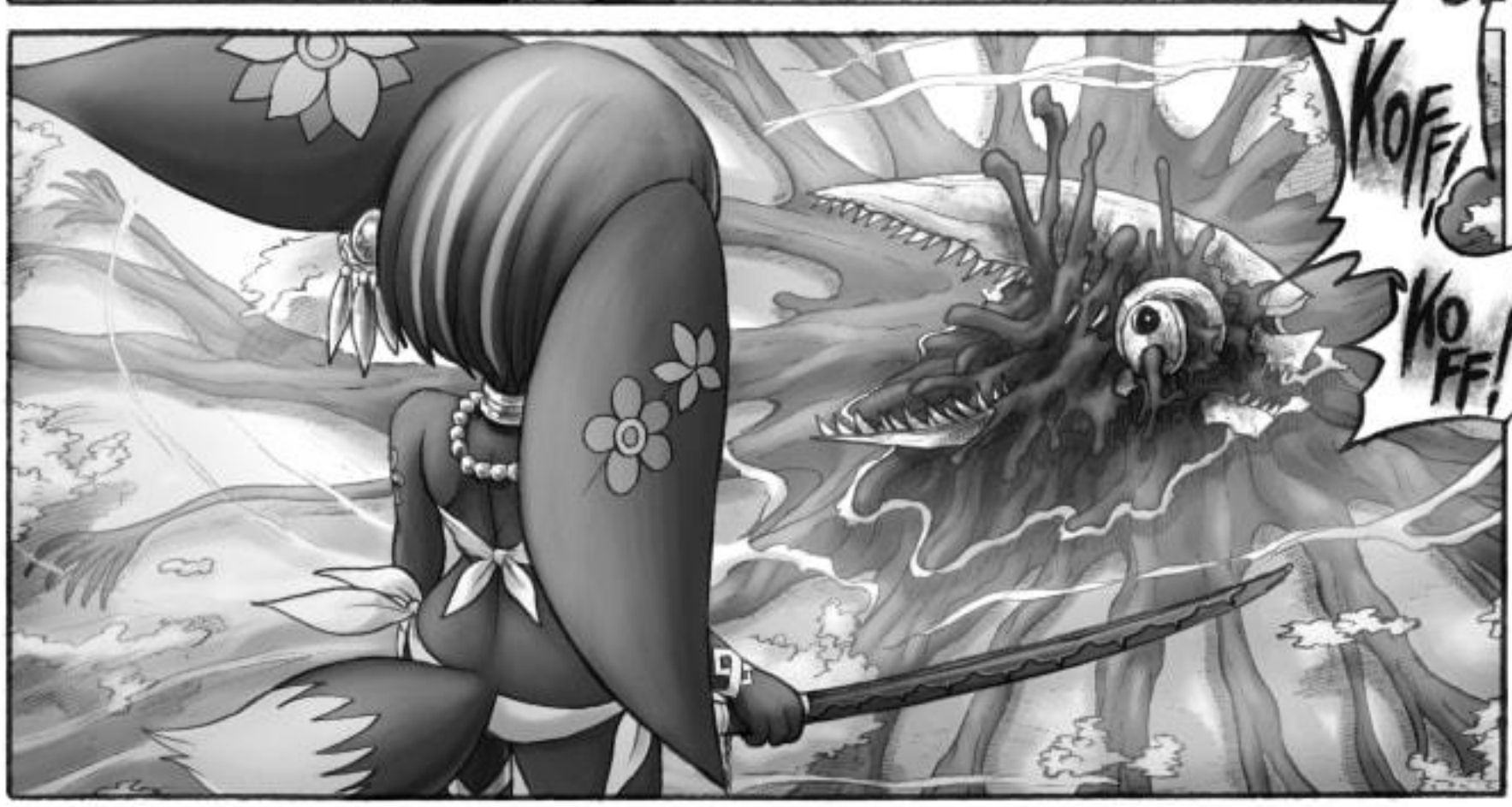
CRKCRKCRK

KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!

SPLASH
!

AH…
YOU CAME …
… DAKINI …

KOFF!


KOFF!
KOFF!

KOFF!
GASP!

DAKINI.
!

I WILL…

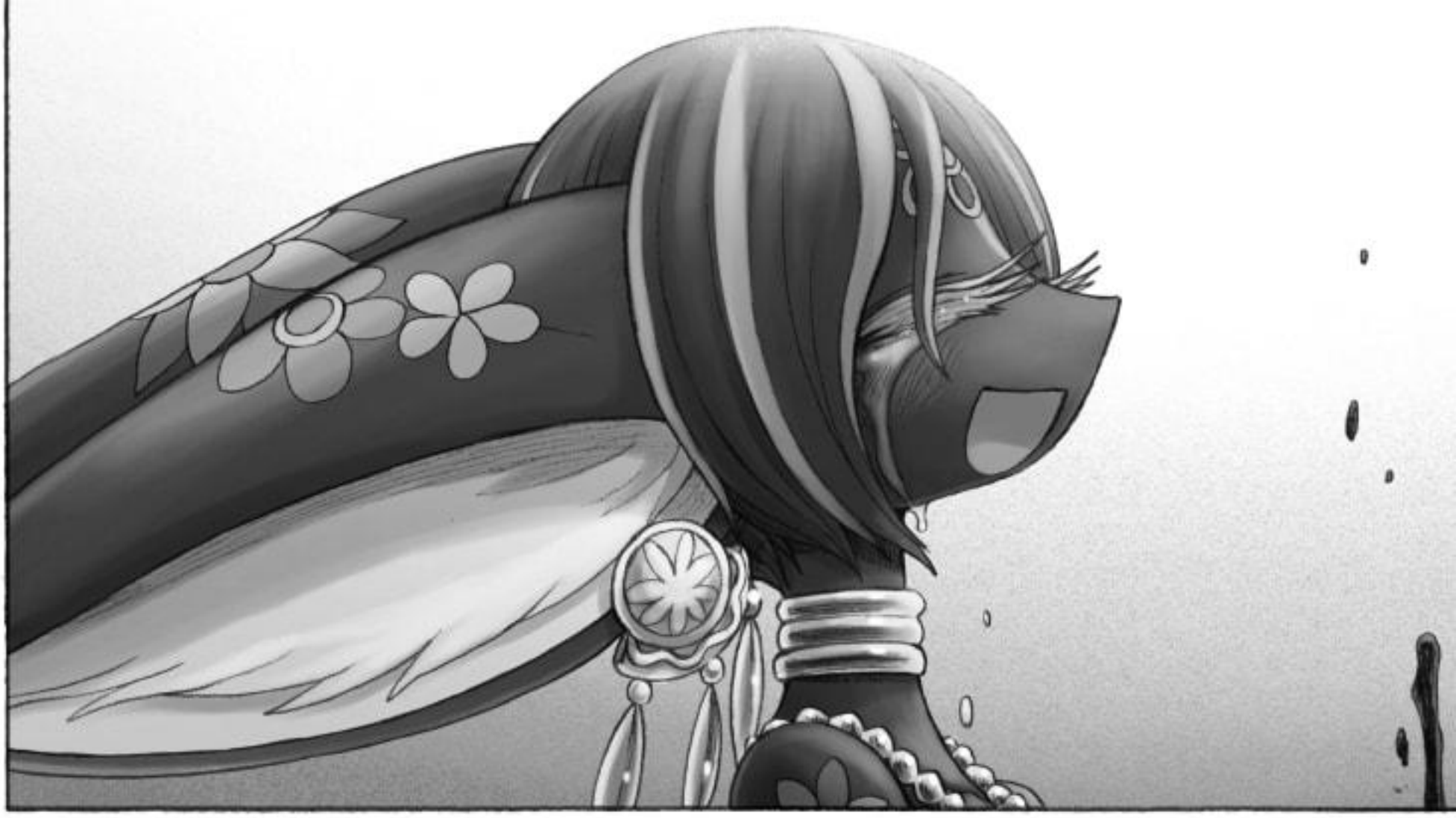
…FOLLOW YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY, TO THE END.

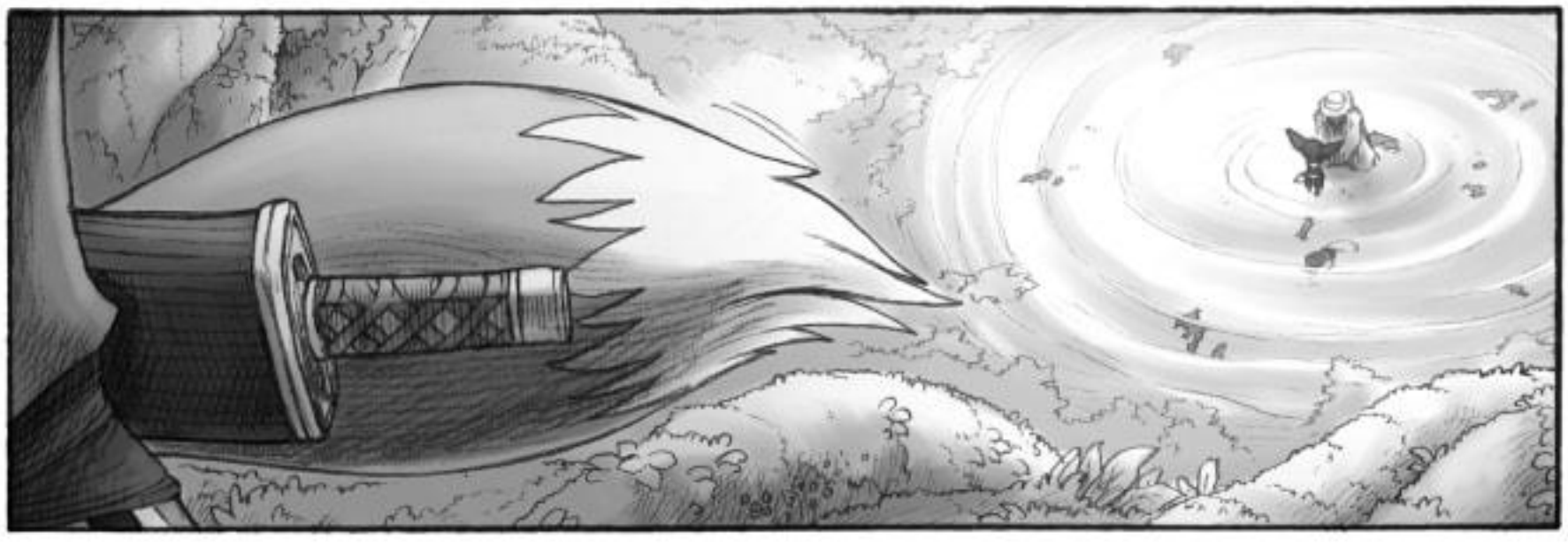
PUSH

YOU HAVE …

…A GOOD EYE FOR COLOR.

NO MATTER WHAT.





DAKINI HAS GONE AWAY WITH HER FRIEND ?!

WHAAA–AAT?!!

I KNEW THAT, BUT…

I WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE !!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

SIGH! YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SORRY.

HUH ?

…I JUST FELT THE URGE TO COME HOME.

NO…

MAYBE I JUST RAN AWAY.

?

ARE YOU OKAY, ALSH?

YOU'RE MAKING ME EVEN MORE CONFUSED.

I GUESS SO…

EVERY TIME I SEE YOUR LEFT HAND, I REMEMBER …

EIGHT YEARS AGO…

THE NIGHT ...
...I MET YOU, THE THUNDER BEAST...
KWIII
ZOOM
ZOOM
KAZOOM
ZOOM

FLASH
ZHAMM

CATCH
!!
WHO… ARE… YOU …?
WH…

I'M ALSH !!

ARE YOU OKAY?! YOU NEED FIRST AID…

WHY…

…AM I HERE…?

I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER MY NAME. WHAT HAPPENED ?

I… HAD A… MISSION…?

A MISSION I MUST COMPLETE, EVEN IF IT MEANS …

… LOSING EVERY-THING.

I…

…DON'T KNOW, EITHER !!

?!

A SONG?

BUT… I HEARD A SONG.

IT WAS A BEAUTI-FUL YET POWERFUL VOICE THAT SHOOK THE AIR.

I FOLLOWED IT AND FOUND YOU.

THAT'S …

…ALL I KNOW.

MAYBE …

THAT'S EVERY-THING…

# FLOWER KNIGHT DAKINI

## TO BE CONTINUED
## IN CHAPTER 12


ART AND STORY
SHO SHIBAMOTO

TRANSLATION
SIMONA STANZANI

COOPERATION
YUMETARO TOYODA

PROOFREADING
KRISTA SHIPLEY

TITLE LOGO DESIGN
SHOTA KOJIMA (5GAS)

# FLOWER KNIGHT DAKINI

Sword-mountain-bearer

One of the largest terrestrial giant beetles. The word "giant beetle" is a general term that indicates all "large bugs" and is not a strict definition. Similarly, mountain-bearers are more accurately categorized as closer to shellfish and snails. They have six legs with spiral muscle fibers and can remain standing from birth to death. They have a tortoise-like shell and their skin is covered with steel scales. They grow without molting.

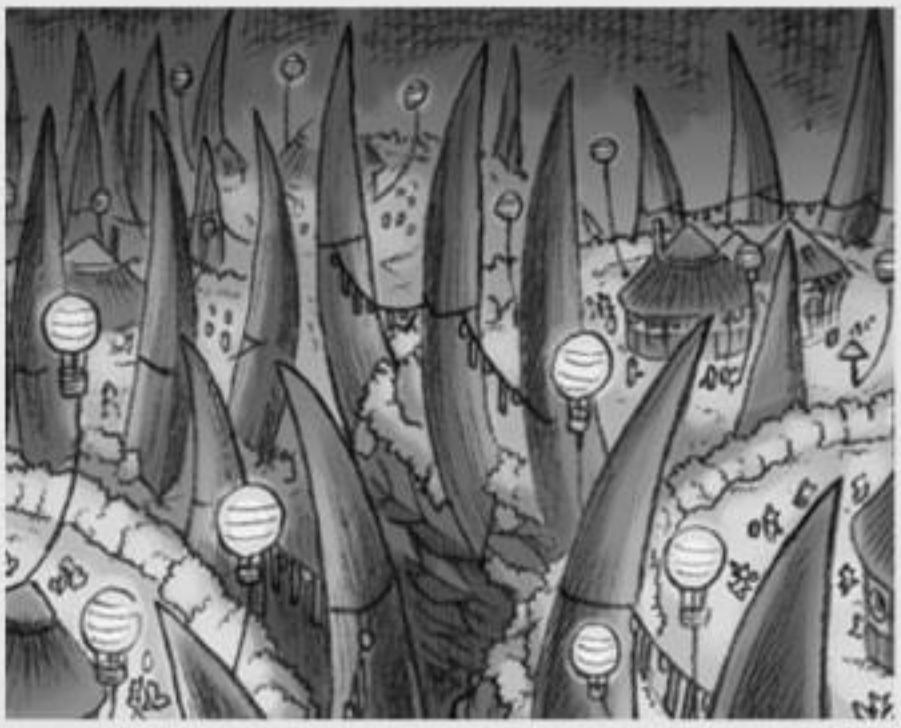
Mountain-bearers have multiple methods of energy intake. They feed on soil and rocks with their long, snake-like proboscis while performing nutrient intake and photosynthesis via plants and soil that live symbiotically on their backs. Though not carnivorous, they will also feed on their own flaked-off scales and the carcasses of their own kind. They are said to live for about 500 years. The mountain-bearer that hosts Damini's family is about 300 years old.

Bambooboar Bighorn

Omnivorous, running-type giant beetle. They do not naturally form groups, but apparently they can learn social skills if you raise them from birth. They can run at speeds of up to 70km/h (43.5mi/h). Their habitat ranges from low mountains to grasslands.
They feed on grass, rotting wood, stones, and rocks. They usually stay in a crouching position with their legs folded. They use their four horns as weapons to charge at invaders, but they are nearly blind and rely on their sense of touch, which is sensitive to smell and vibration.

They used to be ridden by the Bugmaster Knights in ancient times, and are still the vehicle of choice of the Bugmaster tribe, who have inherited their ancestors' techniques. The bambooboar bighorn also has a symbiotic relationship with the sword-mountain-bearer through the Bugmaster tribe.

## Bugmaster Tribe



They are the descendants of the Bugmaster Knights and the beetle masters who excelled at rearing and controlling giant beetles. The Bugmaster Knights divided into two factions in the early days of the Town Era. Those who lived in the cities protected by aiushi repellent and raised giant beetles as livestock on the fringes of the signal line, and those who lived in the forest, like Alsh.
The Bugmasters all live in assembled houses on top of mountain-bearers of different sizes. They live in symbiosis: the Bugmasters are given shelter and, in return, manage the environment on the mountain-bearer's back, protecting it from the omnivorous giant beetles that try to climb up and devour whatever they find on their path.

A mountain-bearer usually roams alone on the fixed route that defines its territory, but twice a year the entire population gathers on a vast plain in the center of the Imadea rainforest. They reproduce, reorganize their behavioral routes, and form groups. (When mountain-bearers have offspring, the parents and children roam a route as a group until the offspring grow up. Protecting the offspring and eggs is one of the roles of the Bugmaster tribe.) The Bugmasters also regroup and reorganize at this time, moving to houses and mountain-bearers of the appropriate size for each group.

The Bugmasters are hunters by trade. All men and women of the clan, young and old, have enough skill to be knights, but none of them bother to take the certification exam. However, their existence and abilities are well known in the cities, especially among merchants. That's because they occasionally go to town to barter the giant beetles they hunted. Much of the furniture in Alsh's house comes from the city market. However, it is rare for city residents to cross the signal line to meet the Bugmasters, because they live in a dangerous area and are constantly on the move.

## Composition of the Bugmaster Tribe

It is said that the reason why there are so many foxes and raccoon dogs in the Bugmaster tribe is because their ancestor, a Bugmaster Knight, was a fox from the Tepantar desert, while his lover, a Marobashi Knight, was a mix of fox and raccoon dog. Today, there are several towns where many different tribes live together, but before the Town Era, many tribes lived by wandering as individual groups. The Bugmaster tribe moved to the forest in the early years of the Town Era, which is probably why its composition remains largely unchanged.

Many of the fox and raccoon-dog tribe members are rare ones. Most of them, however, have mild mutations, such as a split tail. Although I didn't have a chance to mention it in the manga, Alsh's tail has a slight bifurcation at the end. This tendency is found worldwide and not exclusive to the Bugmaster tribe. Its cause is currently unknown. Therefore, there was no discriminatory feeling among the Bugmasters even before the word "rare one" was introduced from outside. It is thought that they were never influenced by the urban legends about rare ones.

* In Pandemonium - Wizard Village, the rare ones who couldn't live in the city went in search of a "Land of the Variant" where they could live in peace. If they had reached Imadea and been lucky enough to meet the Bugmasters, they could have probably lived in peace with them. Unfortunately, due to the danger of giant beetles, that didn't happen.

Two-fold Fall Wind Stag Beetle

Carnivorous giant beetle. They have long, sturdy legs and live in high places such as onodrim trees. Because it is not a running-type species, they can't move very fast, so they hunt by lying in wait above and jumping on their prey. Though heavy, they don't seem to mind falling from great heights. They have double jaws and secondary arms suitable for grasping. They also have a well-developed sense of smell.
The individual that appeared in the manga probably jumped on Karura's zombie thinking it was prey, but it got more than it bargained for and ran away, albeit unsuccessfully.

Karura's Zombie

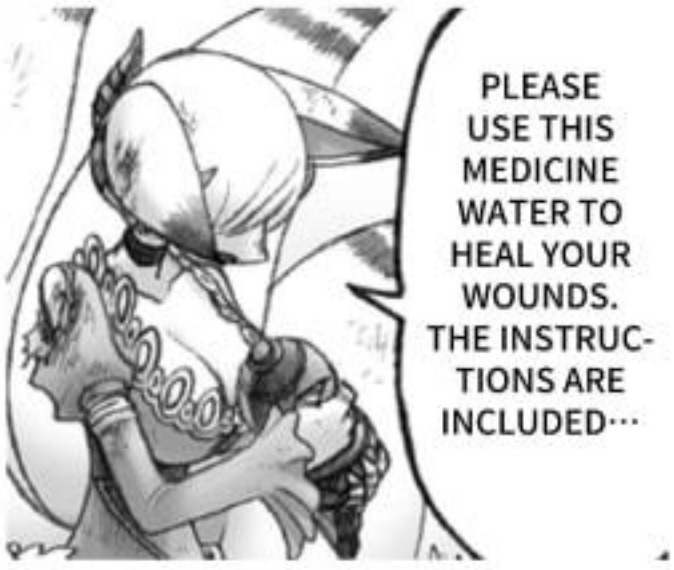
Eiden described him as "still alive," but technically Karura is already dead. What is making him move is another golem, Kissha. Kissha are small golems that were attached to Karura's right arm. Apparently, they have some degree of repair capability. At the beginning, they seemed to be parasites that repaired the damaged arm, but then we saw one of them penetrating into Karura's head. It seems that the Kissha extend their mucus-like "arms" to hold Karura's dismembered body together and make it move. Looks like some of them are also mixed with pieces of other golems (spider-shaped). All of Karura's performance, including power and speed, has been dramatically reduced. With the destruction of the main Kissha, Karura finally disintegrated.

Dakini's sword

The chain portion of the sword that runs down Eiden's right hand and arm unfolded to protect his body. It seems to be a variation of the same mechanism that Dakini used to transform the sword into a spear during the battle against Karura. It is not clear at this time how the transformation was triggered.
Thanks to this protector, Eiden was able to fight Karura's zombie, but judging from the way Dakini's arm was broken through the protector during her battle, it is likely that Eiden wouldn't have been able to withstand even a single blow from Karura when he was still alive.

Medicine Water

The liquid Kayo gave to Eiden when he escaped from Karacuma. One of the mysterious tools excavated from the Pandemonium ruins. The gourd-shaped container was made in the village after the excavation. The details will be introduced in the manga in the near future, so I won't go into them here.
It was originally given to Eiden to heal the injuries sustained in Karacuma, but it's surprising that it can even heal the near-fatal wound inflicted by Karura's zombie. Eiden must have lost a lot of blood, but he seems to have recovered from that as well. He was worried that the wound might get infected, since it was caused by a spike that had skewered a giant beetle earlier, but it looks like that wasn't a problem either.



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